



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

July 8-14, 2013

Red Swamp Crayfish

*Procambarus clarkii*

**Origin:** Native to the Gulf Coast region- Northern Mexico to the Florida Panhandle

**Also known as:** Louisiana red crawfish

**Current Distribution:** Ubiquitous in Southern US. Areas of established populations along East and West coasts. Isolated population found in Wisconsin in 2009. CURRENTLY NOT IN MICHIGAN.

**Means of Introduction:** Most likely through the aquaculture industry or bait release

**Description:** Dark red with raised bright red spots

**Impacts:** Competes for food and habitat. Red swamp crayfish can feed on a plants, snails, insects, fish, and amphibian eggs.

**Habitat:** Found in marshes, swamps, ponds, and slow moving rivers and streams. However, can survive long dry spells by burrowing or moving to other water sources.

**Interesting note:** Red swamp crayfish are an important aquaculture species in the southern states. In fact, they make up the majority of crayfish consumed worldwide!

For further information on occurrences, biology, or ecology, please visit the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species website at:  
[www.nas.er.usgs.gov](http://www.nas.er.usgs.gov)



Photo: Chris Taylor, Illinois History Suvery, Bugwood.org



Photo by Chris Lukhaup

